

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 32

In the Parable of the Persistent Widow, sometimes referred to as the Parable of the Unjust Judge, Jesus instructs His disciples and us that we ought always to pray and not give up. He tells the story of the widow, who diligently appeals to an unjust judge to grant her justice for a wrong she has suffered. Even though the judge neither fears God nor cares for people, he ultimately grants the widow relief because of her persistence. Jesus goes on to say that God, unlike the unjust judge, will bring about justice swiftly and thoroughly for those who cry out to Him.

Luke continues His gospel by recording the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. In this story, Jesus contrasts the arrogant prayer of the Pharisee with that of a humble, contrite tax collector. He went home justified before God while the Pharisee did not.

In Luke 18:15-17, Jesus stresses the importance of having a childlike faith and confidence in God. He notes that individuals who do not exhibit such pure trust in God will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Before turning to the rest of Luke 18, take a moment to come before God as a trusting child, confident of a warm welcome. Our Heavenly Father promises never to leave us nor forsake us and assures us that He will provide our every need (Hebrew 13:5,6, and Matthew 6:25-33).

The Rich Ruler

1. Read Luke 18:18-30.
 - A. Who approaches Jesus?
 - B. What is his likely position in society?
 - C. What does he ask Jesus?
 - D. In reply, Jesus asks a question of his own. What does He ask? Why do you think He asks it?
 - E. In verse 19, Jesus says, “No one is good—except God alone.” What do you learn about God and people from this statement? What else might Jesus be implying?
 - F. As the dialogue continues (18:20-25), how does Jesus gradually apply the principles of the law to the ruler’s idols and shortcomings?

- G. From verse 22, what does Jesus tell the wealthy ruler to do?
- H. What does the ruler's response (18:23) reveal about his character? What was he unwilling to do?
- I. Bystanders who heard this exchange ask Jesus, "Who then can be saved?" How does Jesus respond? What truth is implied here? (See Ephesians 2:8-9.)
- J. Read Luke 18:29-30. What promises does Jesus extend to His disciples, those who are willing to leave everything to follow Him?
- K. What does it mean to "leave everything and follow Jesus"? How would you do this?

Jesus Predicts His Own Death

2. Read Luke 18:31-34.
 - A. What does Jesus predict will happen to Him upon His arrival in Jerusalem?

 - B. What does the blind man do in response to those who rebuke him and tell him to be quiet?

 - C. How does he perceive with understanding even though he is blind? What truths does he recognize about himself and Jesus that others do not?

 - D. How does Jesus reply to the blind man? What question does He ask the blind man?

 - E. For personal application, what do you want Jesus to do for you?

- F. From verse 41, what is the blind man's request?

- G. From verse 42, how does Jesus respond?

- H. What results
 - (1) for the blind man?

 - (2) For the onlookers?

- I. Review Luke 18:35-43. What attitudes are we to cultivate in our relationship with Jesus?